

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 SIG-01 TRSE-00 CU-04 EB-08 OMB-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213332

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CSCE, YO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE BELGRADE VISITS BY PRIVATE GROUPS DURING
CSCE MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 123794; (B) BELGRADE 3695

1. WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF
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DISRUPTIVE CLASHES THIS FALL BETWEEN YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES
AND PRIVATE GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO LOBBY IN
BELGRADE. SUCH CLASHES WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO BOTH THE
CONDUCT AND PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE CSCE MEETING AND MIGHT
EVEN OVERSHADOW THE PROCEEDINGS THEMSELVES. ANY YUGOSLAV
OVERREACTION WOULD VERY LIKELY SPARK CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM
IN THE UNITED STATES AND POSSIBLY BRING THE DEPARTMENT UNDER

PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE TO LODGE FORMAL PROTESTS.
TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, WE WISH TO ACT NOW TO LESSEN THE
LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH INCIDENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED THAT WE NOT
RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH THE YUGOSLAVS (REFTEL B), WE
BELIEVE A CAREFUL APPROACH TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WOULD BE
USEFUL AT THIS TIME. SEVERAL INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED

DURING THE PREPARATORY MEETING DEMONSTRATE THAT THE
PROBLEM IS A REAL ONE WHICH MAY BECOME MORE SERIOUS IN THE
FALL. WHILE RECOGNIZING YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITY ON THIS
SUBJECT, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE
GOY 1) THE POLITICAL, AS OPPOSED TO LEGAL, ASPECTS OF THE
PROBLEM; 2) OUR VIEW THAT PRIVATE GROUPS VISITING BELGRADE
SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DISCUSS CSCE WITH ANY DELEGATES OR
JOURNALISTS WILLING TO MEET WITH THEM; AND 3) THE NEED OF
ESTABLISHING A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION ON THIS SUBJECT,
BOTH IN PREPARATION FOR THE CSCE MEETING AND IN THE EVENT
OF ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING US CITIZENS IN THE FALL.

3. WE WISH TO MAKE THESE POINTS IN A HELPFUL TONE BUT
WITHOUT GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO
WORK WITH THE GOY TO PREVENT PRIVATE GROUPS FROM VISITING
BELGRADE. WHILE WE ARE NOT ENCOURAGING VISITS BY PRIVATE
GROUPS, THE FACT IS THAT SUCH GROUPS WILL BE IN BELGRADE
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DURING THE MEETING, AND THEY WILL NATURALLY WANT TO ENGAGE
IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AS MEETING WITH, AND DISTRIBUTING
LITERATURE TO, DELEGATES, JOURNALISTS AND OTHER INTERESTED
OBSERVERS. THEY WILL ALSO UNDERSTANDABLY WISH TO HOLD NON-
DISRUPTIVE PRESS CONFERENCES. WE DO NOT SEE HOW, AT A
CONFERENCE DEALING IN MAJOR PART WITH THE FREE FLOW OF
INFORMATION, SUCH ACTIVITIES COULD BE RIGHTFULLY PROHIBITED.
AS FOR MARCHES OR PICKETING, WE URGE THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORI-
TIES TO USE MODERATION AND WARNINGS RATHER THAN RESORTING
TO DRASTIC STEPS.

4. UNLESS THE EMBASSY HAS OBJECTIONS, WE REQUEST THAT
YOU SEEK A HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENT WITH THE APPROPRIATE
YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. DEPENDING UPON
THE YUGOSLAV RESPONSE, WE WILL CONSIDER--AND APPRECIATE
EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON--WHETHER FURTHER APPROACHES, EITHER
UNILATERALLY OR WITH THE HELP OF THE ALLIES, MIGHT BE
USEFUL. FOLLOWING ARE SEVERAL SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS
BASED ON THE PRECEDING TEXT:

--THE CSCE HAS ELICITED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE UNITED
STATES AMONG NUMEROUS PRIVATE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS,

SOME OF WHOM MAY SEEK TO VISIT BELGRADE IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY THIS FALL. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH PRIVATE VISITS HAS BEEN TO POINT OUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF SCARCE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND THE FACT THAT THE BULK OF THE CSCE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CLOSED SESSION. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT THE US DELEGATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH PRIVATE GROUPS WHICH CHOOSE, NONETHELESS, TO VISIT.

-- WE RECOGNIZE FULLY THAT VISITS BY SUCH GROUPS MUST NOT DISRUPT THE CSCE MEETING. IT WOULD BE ALSO VERY UNFORTUNATE, HOWEVER, IF THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE MEETING WERE OVERSHADOWED BY THE FRUSTRATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE PRIVATE VISITORS UNABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON CSCE
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IN A LEGITIMATE AND NON-DISRUPTIVE MANNER.

-- WE BELIEVE IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT VISITORS BE ALLOWED TO MEET WITH, AND DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE TO, MEMBERS OF ANY DELEGATIONS, JOURNALISTS AND OTHER INTERESTED OBSERVERS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HOLD NON-DISRUPTIVE PRESS CONFERENCES. WE, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AND THE CONGRESS WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING THE DENIAL OF SUCH OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO A MEETING CONCERNED IN PART WITH PROMOTING THE FREER FLOW OF PEOPLE AND INFORMATION. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO SOMEHOW PROVIDE VISITORS WITH INFORMATION ON WHAT IS AND IS NOT PERMISSIBLE, SO THAT LAWS WILL NOT BE INADVERTENTLY VIOLATED.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROBLEM OF VISITING GROUPS IS A DELICATE ONE, REQUIRING MODERATION AND BALANCE. WE RAISE THE SUBJECT IN THE BELIEF THAT CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WILL MAKE CLEARER TO EACH SIDE THE CONCERNS AND CONSIDERATIONS OF THE OTHER. WE HOPE THE GOY WILL INFORM US OF ITS VIEWS AND PLANS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO BE HELPFUL IN EVERY APPROPRIATE MANNER. WE HOPE, IN PARTICULAR, THAT WE WILL BE NOTIFIED PROMPTLY SHOULD ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING AMERICAN VISITORS ARISE IN THE FALL.
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